

"Railroad BBQ" on Hampton Street, in the shadows of Benedict College and Allen University. The restaurant is adorned with political posters and created a space for enjoying fulfilling food and conversation. Despite opening at the early onset of COVID, it quickly became a cornerstone of the community.

Throughout his life, Kevin was a highly involved member of the community, offering support to families who had lost loved ones to poverty, violence, drug use, or were imprisoned. In formal civic roles he served as head of the Rainbow Coalition, a civil rights organization originally founded by Rev. Jackson and led protests against apartheid in South Africa. He also served eight terms as President of the South Carolina American Civil Liberties Union, and for four years on the national board of the American Civil Liberties Union. He was a key voice in advocating for the removal of the confederate flag from the dome of the South Carolina State House.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the inspiring life of Kevin Gray. Throughout his life, he remained steadfast in his dedication to his state and furthering the opportunities of all who lived there. His commitment to public service touched the lives of all who knew him, and he will remain cemented in the bedrock of Columbia, South Carolina forever.

#### HONORING THE LIVES OF CORPORAL BENJAMIN COOPER AND OFFICER JAKE REED

#### HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of Corporal Benjamin Lee Cooper and Officer Jake Alexander Reed, who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in the line of duty to the Joplin community.

Cpl. Cooper served his country as part of the U.S. Army for eight years and was stationed in Alaska and Hawaii during his service. Following his service in the military, he started a 19-year career in law enforcement beginning with the Joplin Police Department in 2003. He then served as a Sheriff's Deputy in Colorado, before ultimately returning to Joplin. Cpl. Cooper was an avid bowhunter, fisherman, and family man. He is survived by his wife and 2 daughters.

Officer Reed graduated with Honors from MSSU and became a Joplin Police Officer upon graduation. Officer Reed served with the Joplin Police Department for five years. He loved gaming, mountain biking, golfing, and spending time with his family and friends. Officer Reed's commitment to service continues as he spread the gift of life to several recipients as a vital organ donor. He is survived by his wife.

Both lives gone too soon, both lives we must remember forever. Their service to Joplin has left a lasting impact on our community and we owe them an eternal debt of gratitude.

On behalf of Southwest Missouri, I join the Joplin community today in honoring their lives, memory, and lasting impact they will forever have on our community.

#### RECOGNIZING SERGEANT MAJOR JASON M. CANTU

#### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Sergeant Major Jason M. Cantu, who is retiring after 30 years of service to the United States Marine Corps.

Sergeant Major Cantu enlisted in the Marine Corps in December of 1992 and completed his recruit training in September of 1993. Following his training at the School of Infantry, he was assigned as an infantry machine gunner.

Throughout his 30 years of service, Sergeant Major Cantu has been deployed all over the world. In his early years as a Marine, he worked in Cuba to help Haitian and Cuban migrant's humanitarian missions as well as being deployed to South America and West Africa as a part of an air/ground task force and training float.

He was later reassigned Bravo Company 1st Battalion 2nd Marine Regiment where he was a machinegun section leader and deployed to the Mediterranean Sea as part of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. During this tour, he was promoted to the rank of Corporal, then Sergeant. After a brief stint with the Weapons Training Battalion in Quantico, VA, he returned to the 1st Battalion 2nd Marine Regiment in September 2000. While with the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment Sergeant Major Cantu, then a Sergeant, served as a section leader for the Combined Anti Armor Team. A year later, the battalion deployed to Okinawa, then Guam, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Then, in January 2003, the battalion deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After serving as a Drill Instructor School at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA, Cantu was assigned to the U.S. Naval Mission in Bogota, Colombia. After a stint in Colombia, and then Chile as a Marine Corps representative to the Chilean Marine Corps, Cantu was promoted to First Sergeant in September of 2008. He was deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom 9.1 as the Counterintelligence/Human Intelligence Company First Sergeant.

Sergeant Major Cantu rose to his current rank in May 2013 and currently serves as the Squadron Sergeant Major for a Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron.

Sergeant Major Cantu's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with V and three gold stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars and the Combat Action Ribbon.

He is the son of a 21-year career Marine and a brother to 7 siblings, 6 of whom also served in the United States Marine Corps and the United States Navy and are comprised of non-commissioned and commissioned officers.

Our country owes the men and women of the United States military an enormous debt of gratitude, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sergeant Major Cantu. It is service men like him that safeguard our liberties and allow the people of this great nation to live under a blanket of freedom.

On behalf of the people of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, we appreciate his outstanding leadership and unwavering com-

mitment to his country. It is my honor to congratulate Sergeant Major Cantu on a job well done.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MASTER TROOPER JAMES BAILEY

#### HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Indiana State Master Trooper James R. Bailey, who was killed in the line of duty last Friday, March 3.

A native of Auburn, Indiana, Bailey was a decorated, nearly 16-year veteran of the Indiana State Police force who was named Trooper of the Year for District 12 in 2012 and earned the combat "Action Award" in 2021.

But Bailey's spiritedness and sense of duty wasn't confined to his squad car. In 2010, Bailey was off-duty and leaving lunch from a restaurant with his wife when an 87-year-old man collapsed in the parking lot. He and his wife Amy, a nurse, rendered CPR and saved the man's life. Three times, he was diagnosed with cancer. Three times, he beat it. "I'm pretty stubborn," Bailey said. "You have two options. One is to go into a corner and pout. The second is to fight and be stubborn." That's who James Bailey was: A public servant dedicated to the last, and a warrior whose triumphs he insisted be understated.

In response to being called a hero, Trooper Bailey demurred, "It's what we do, it's what we are trained to do, and that's why we get into this profession." But I want to be very clear, especially to his children, Joseph and Sophia: Their dad was a hero. That is how he will be remembered.

We will never forget his service and sacrifice to Northeast Indiana. God bless the Bailey family and God bless all law enforcement officers who risk their lives every day to keep our families and communities safe.

#### RECOGNIZING CFMA AWARD WINNERS—TIMOTHY HESS

#### HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Timothy Hess of Azteca-Omega Group. Timothy is a champion in the multi-dimensional, elaborate industry of construction management. He is a distinguished awardee for Executive of the Year from the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA).

CFMA is a figurehead in the construction industry by virtue of its support for financial managers through networking, educational, and informational services. CFMA grants more opportunities and resources to empower advanced, innovative development of infrastructure in the prosperous district of TX-24. Timothy has made a significant impact on his company, industry, and colleagues in North Texas. He has been recognized by CFMA as a leader within the community that empowers